



The Boggs Panther

A publication of the Boggs Academy
National Alumni Association, Inc.

Oweta Johnson-Hegeman (class of '57) Editor in Chief newsletter@boggsacademy.com

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2010

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Mid-term Board of Directors Conference

The first annual Mid-term Board of Directors Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 4 - 6, 2010. The conference was well attended by both the local chapters and the Members.

The two-day conference was intended to be a re-birth of commitments and vision. The agenda was robust and very important issues were brought to the table for healthy deliberation and debate.

On Friday, the sessions started at 2:00 p.m. and

continued well into the evening with very few breaks. The recent reorganization of the group took center stage.

The meeting resumed on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Saturday's discussion pivoted around the Bylaws, social networking, the Alumni House, and the maintenance of our corporate records. Committees were formed and almost 100% reaffirmed their commitment to make our organization better as we build on the Boggs Academy legacy.

It was agreed that the Board of Directors would operate in a more transparent way by maintaining dialogue with our alumni constituency. President Sammie Dukes emphasized the need for Directors to be more accountable for their respective tasks and to each other.

Our next meeting is scheduled to coincide with the Annual Reunion in October of this year.

Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy National Alumni Association

Reunion

Charleston, SC

August 5-8, 2010

For additional information Contact:

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Are you Connected?

Get connected. Please visit our website (<http://www.boggsacademy.com>) for Boggs Academy Alumni Association business updates, featured stories, and memories.

You can also reconnect and/or stay connected with your classmates, schoolmates, and Boggs Academy staff on our exclusive Boggs Academy Network

"Dear Old BA," (<http://www.boggsacademy.ning.com/>) We are also on Facebook! Look for the Boggs Academy Alumni Group and join! We hope to see you soon.



Mid-term BOD Conference
Atlanta, GA June 4-6, 2010



Pat and Curtis Smith at the conference table.

Boggs Rural Life Center (BRLC) PCUSA

In 1906 the Presbyterian Church began a mission in Burke County, Georgia to address the needs of impoverished people in the area. In the beginning stages the mission took the form of a school for the rural poor. Then it became a preparatory school with 90% of its graduates going on to college.

The Church changed its mission and no longer supported the school. As a result the school was unable to obtain funding and in 1986 it closed. Several years afterward the Church put the property up for sale. In 1991, after much

negotiation it was agreed that Boggs Rural Life Center (BRLC) would be formed. Its members were composed of five community organizations: The Boggs Academy Alumni Association, Keysville Concerned Citizens, Burke County Development Corporation, Burke County Improvement Association and Phelps Parish. The BRLC and the Church entered into a Covenant Agreement wherein title to the property, 1232 acres, was transferred to the BRLC, subject to certain terms and conditions. This agreement was to be reviewed and revised every five

years.

Presently, the Teacherage and the Student Center are rented to WestCare Georgia Inc., who operates an Adolescent Intensive Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program on campus. Farm land is being rented to a local farmer, land is leased to a hunting club and several cottages are rented to tenants. There are plans to some day utilize one of the buildings for an Alumni House.

"My Alma mater was books, a good library... I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity"

Malcolm X

Friends of Boggs Academy (FOBA) Isaac McGraw

Alumnus **Isaac McGraw** is the founder of Friends of Boggs Academy. (FOBA).

Mr. McGraw founded the organization to act as a partner with the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association. Over the years, Mr. McGraw sponsored several meetings in an effort to restore alumni participation.

For the record, FOBA was

never the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association, and Mr. McGraw was never asked to represent the BANAA.

It is not currently known whether the FOBA organization is still operational. We have not been able to locate the FOBA website. We have no further information on the FOBA or other issues surrounding this organization.

For any additional information on this organization, please go to Google or some other search engine. The last known address was in Durham, North Carolina.



Dr. Joseph Durham, Historian Boggs Academy

The Phoenix Group

The Phoenix Group was founded by Alumnus John Franklin in an attempt to mediate relations between the Boggs Academy Central Savannah River Area Alumni Association and the Friends of Boggs Academy. At that time the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association was nearly defunct. Four major meetings took place without resolve. Although the

John Franklin

Phoenix Group membership grew to nearly twenty-five members, it was realized that efforts at mediating this difficult discourse were futile, and the group dissolved. Monies attained by annual dues and reunion profit were used to pay annual dues to the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association for twelve Phoenix Group members. The balance of these monies

(\$300) was donated to the Boggs Academy National Alumni Association, Inc.

The monies were used toward the reunion of the BANAA, Inc.

Allene B. Reed (Class of '57) Director Named for New Program

The Burke County School System has named Allene B. Reed to the Director of Program . For the new Early Head Start program. In Oct. of this year, this program will begin providing services to families in the community. Early Head Start is a federally funded program that serves children six weeks to three years old in a center-based environment. The school system received a \$2.8 million grant for two years to serve sixty-four infants and toddlers and thirty women and teens from the Burke County community. The program is located in a

wing of the Old Blakeney School building in Waynesboro, Georgia. She will supervise twenty-six staff persons who will deliver services five days per week, 230 days per year to low-income families.

Allene says, "It is a very humbling experience when I think of the magnitude of the project, but I remain committed to the task of trying to make a difference in the life of a child, one family at a time. This is home now, after relocating from Atlanta and coming full-circle and returning to my birth commu-

nity. Burke County has it's share of problems and I cannot sit by and expect others to work on the solutions to many of the social problems and not lift a finger to help. I do come home and find a way to give back; sometime as a volunteer and at other times for a salary. Whichever situation is in place, I feel that "to whom is given, much is required." So, I have embarked on yet another journey. Thank you for providing me the forum to share information about my latest venture."



Yvonne Days-Cuffie
A new Associate Member

Norma Joy Barnes (class of '61)

Alumnus Norma Joy Barnes (class of '61), an accomplished community activist with over 30 years of volunteer work under her belt, decided to do more than just talk about dismal statistics surrounding the young Black man. She founded the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta (CCMA), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and the Priority Male Program. The organization's mission seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities in metropolitan Atlanta. The Priority Male Initiative, the organization's core program, focuses on black males between

the ages of 18-28, and includes the Priority Male Institute, a free 26-week career and personal development program. The institute's curriculum includes structured classes, workshops, life skills coaching, job readiness resources, field trips, mentoring, internships, and employment opportunities. In addition to the 26-week institute, the CCMA sponsors free Saturday workshops, "Overcoming the Odds: Success Strategies for Young Black Men," that are held at public libraries in the metropolitan area from April through July. These workshops provide personal assessments, an interactive seminar, lunch, an open forum, and a

keynote speech from a black male who has overcome the odds, "Our young black males are in a crisis, and too many of our youth are at risk," said Barnes. "The Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. is committed to providing resources to help these young people navigate their journey to success."

[Excerpt from "Metropolitan Atlanta's Young Black Males Need You: Be More Than Part of the Conversation, Become a Part of the Solution," by Carla D. Harper](#)

Kudos

Our Mid-term Board of Directors meeting was a huge success.

Kudos to **James Costen** who rallied the Atlanta chapter to attend question/answer and meet/greet sessions, a key component to engaging new members.

Kudos to **Roberle Pratt** for the great choice of venue.

Our accommodations were top notch and the meeting facility was great. We could not have asked for anything better. Thanks Roberle.

Kudos to our newly elected President **Sammie Dukes** who was in good form while keeping us focused on the tasks at hand, allowing everyone to discuss issues and share concerns.

Last but not least, Kudos to **all of you** who showed up and participated in our business and social meetings. Clearly stated through your engagement is an intrinsic affinity to the Boggs Academy legacy. Expectations of rebirth in collaborative commitment are high.

Thank you one and all.



Mrs. Lela W. Stone
Matriarch of Boggs Academy
National Alumni Association

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Mr. & Mrs. Anybody
Any Street
Any City
Any State

Board of Directors

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Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Jerita Hall
Reunion	TBA
By-Laws	Barbara Williams
Editor Newsletter	Oweta J. Hegeman
Finance	Ted Stephens